



PreKindergarten Readiness Checklist

Prekindergarten is an exciting time for both parents and children. Young children learn best through active play and everyday life experiences. They start to learn from the moment they are born and need the love and support of their caregivers-the most important people in their lives. You are your child's first and most important teacher!

Prekindergarten has changed in many ways in recent years. More is expected of children academically today, so children need to be socially and emotionally prepared. Readiness is a combination of age, individual growth, and experience. This checklist is designed to help you examine your child's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Most three or four year olds will not master all of the items on the checklist and it is not expected. Instead, this checklist can indicate areas of strength and areas of weakness to consider in deciding if your child is ready to be screened for prekindergarten.

Please use the following scale to evaluate what your child can do:

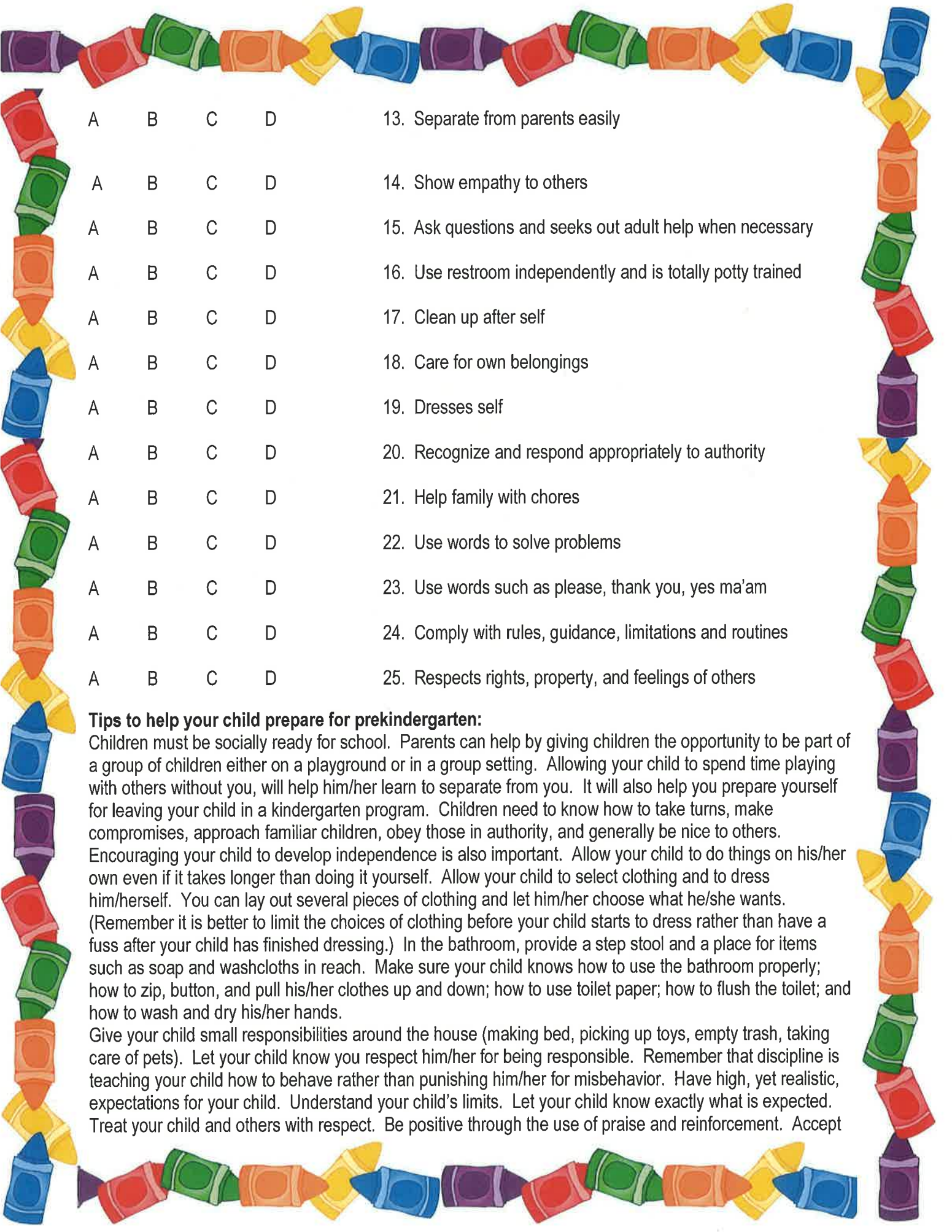
A. Not yet B. Some of the time C. More than half of the time D. Almost Always

Faith Development

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| A | B | C | D | 1. Participate in simple prayers with the family |
| A | B | C | D | 2. Bow head quietly while others are praying |
| A | B | C | D | 3. Attend Mass or church with the family |
| A | B | C | D | 4. Show curiosity about God and His world |
| A | B | C | D | 5. Show love and respect for self and others |

Social and Emotional Development:

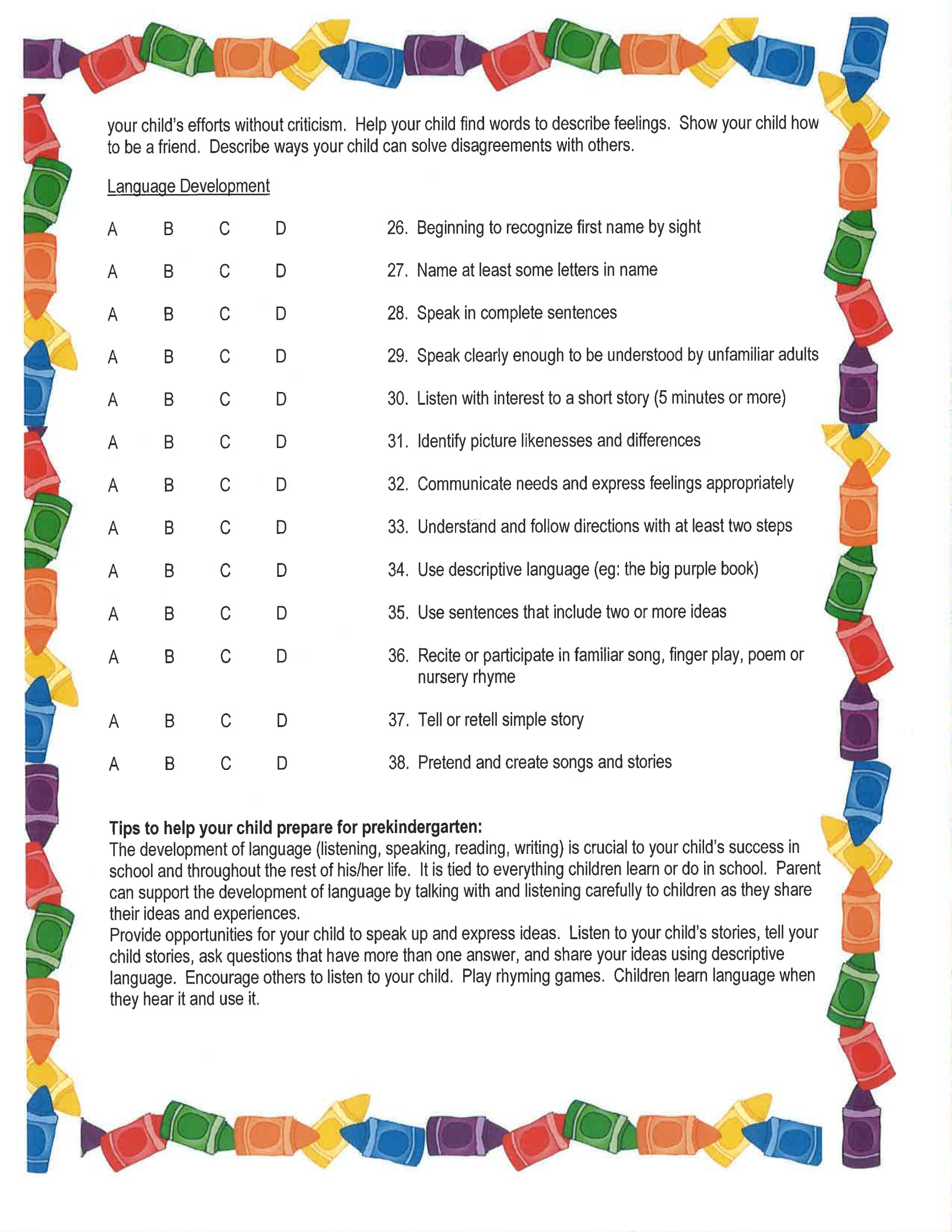
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|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | 6. Initiate his own leisure-time activities |
| A | B | C | D | 7. Do tasks the first time asked |
| A | B | C | D | 8. Finish one activity before starting another |
| A | B | C | D | 9. Work independently |
| A | B | C | D | 10. Try new things |
| A | B | C | D | 11. Listen when others are speaking |
| A | B | C | D | 12. Play cooperatively with other children, take turns and shares |

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| A | B | C | D | 13. Separate from parents easily |
| A | B | C | D | 14. Show empathy to others |
| A | B | C | D | 15. Ask questions and seeks out adult help when necessary |
| A | B | C | D | 16. Use restroom independently and is totally potty trained |
| A | B | C | D | 17. Clean up after self |
| A | B | C | D | 18. Care for own belongings |
| A | B | C | D | 19. Dresses self |
| A | B | C | D | 20. Recognize and respond appropriately to authority |
| A | B | C | D | 21. Help family with chores |
| A | B | C | D | 22. Use words to solve problems |
| A | B | C | D | 23. Use words such as please, thank you, yes ma'am |
| A | B | C | D | 24. Comply with rules, guidance, limitations and routines |
| A | B | C | D | 25. Respects rights, property, and feelings of others |

Tips to help your child prepare for prekindergarten:

Children must be socially ready for school. Parents can help by giving children the opportunity to be part of a group of children either on a playground or in a group setting. Allowing your child to spend time playing with others without you, will help him/her learn to separate from you. It will also help you prepare yourself for leaving your child in a kindergarten program. Children need to know how to take turns, make compromises, approach familiar children, obey those in authority, and generally be nice to others. Encouraging your child to develop independence is also important. Allow your child to do things on his/her own even if it takes longer than doing it yourself. Allow your child to select clothing and to dress him/herself. You can lay out several pieces of clothing and let him/her choose what he/she wants. (Remember it is better to limit the choices of clothing before your child starts to dress rather than have a fuss after your child has finished dressing.) In the bathroom, provide a step stool and a place for items such as soap and washcloths in reach. Make sure your child knows how to use the bathroom properly; how to zip, button, and pull his/her clothes up and down; how to use toilet paper; how to flush the toilet; and how to wash and dry his/her hands.

Give your child small responsibilities around the house (making bed, picking up toys, empty trash, taking care of pets). Let your child know you respect him/her for being responsible. Remember that discipline is teaching your child how to behave rather than punishing him/her for misbehavior. Have high, yet realistic, expectations for your child. Understand your child's limits. Let your child know exactly what is expected. Treat your child and others with respect. Be positive through the use of praise and reinforcement. Accept



your child's efforts without criticism. Help your child find words to describe feelings. Show your child how to be a friend. Describe ways your child can solve disagreements with others.

Language Development

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| A | B | C | D | 26. Beginning to recognize first name by sight |
| A | B | C | D | 27. Name at least some letters in name |
| A | B | C | D | 28. Speak in complete sentences |
| A | B | C | D | 29. Speak clearly enough to be understood by unfamiliar adults |
| A | B | C | D | 30. Listen with interest to a short story (5 minutes or more) |
| A | B | C | D | 31. Identify picture likenesses and differences |
| A | B | C | D | 32. Communicate needs and express feelings appropriately |
| A | B | C | D | 33. Understand and follow directions with at least two steps |
| A | B | C | D | 34. Use descriptive language (eg: the big purple book) |
| A | B | C | D | 35. Use sentences that include two or more ideas |
| A | B | C | D | 36. Recite or participate in familiar song, finger play, poem or nursery rhyme |
| A | B | C | D | 37. Tell or retell simple story |
| A | B | C | D | 38. Pretend and create songs and stories |

Tips to help your child prepare for prekindergarten:

The development of language (listening, speaking, reading, writing) is crucial to your child's success in school and throughout the rest of his/her life. It is tied to everything children learn or do in school. Parent can support the development of language by talking with and listening carefully to children as they share their ideas and experiences.

Provide opportunities for your child to speak up and express ideas. Listen to your child's stories, tell your child stories, ask questions that have more than one answer, and share your ideas using descriptive language. Encourage others to listen to your child. Play rhyming games. Children learn language when they hear it and use it.



Cognitive Development:

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| A | B | C | D | 39. Identify basic colors: red, green, blue, orange, yellow, purple, pink, black, brown |
| A | B | C | D | 40. Identify parts of the body (head, shoulders, knees, arms, legs, etc.) |
| A | B | C | D | 41. Draw self with head, body, arms and legs |
| A | B | C | D | 42. Tell how old they are |
| A | B | C | D | 43. Tell full name when asked |
| A | B | C | D | 44. Participate in art and music activities |
| A | B | C | D | 45. Demonstrate curiosity, persistence, and exploratory behavior |
| A | B | C | D | 46. Put together simple puzzles |
| A | B | C | D | 47. Know the purpose of letters and numbers. |

Tips to help your child prepare for prekindergarten:

Children at this age best learn through play. A variety of experiences is vital for your child to develop cognitively. Provide age appropriate toys which require problem solving. This includes puzzles, interlocking blocks. Provide opportunities and materials for writing and creative expression: crayons, sand, water, paint, paper, markers, scissors, hole punch, yarn, beans, and popsicle sticks. Let your child dress up or engage in other imaginative play (house, post office, etc.). Teach your child basic information such as his/her full name, address, telephone number; as well as your full name and where you work. Set the tone that learning is good, fun, and important. Share with your child fun things that you remember from your school days.

Reading Development:

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| A | B | C | D | 48. Make simple predictions and comments about a story being read to him/her |
| A | B | C | D | 49. Recognize print in everyday situations |
| A | B | C | D | 50. Try to read along with you on favorite parts of stories that are repetitive |
| A | B | C | D | 51. Pretend to read books from the pictures |
| A | B | C | D | 52. Know any nursery rhymes by heart |



Interest Level — Choose the category which best describes your child's interest level.

- 53. Shows little interest in books and/or reading
- 54. Is Interested in books for a few minutes at a time, but not of his/her own initiative
- 55. Shows a considerable amount of interest in books, but has a short attention span
- 56. Desires to be read to frequently

Tips to help your child prepare for prekindergarten:

Reading a book to children is an enjoyable experience. It should be part of the daily family routine. It is the most important way parents can help children learn to read and instill a love of reading. Choose from a wide variety of literature such as picture books, poetry books, nonfiction books, nonsense books, and nursery rhymes that will expose him/her to different sentence patterns and different vocabulary. Let your child pretend to read a book back to you. He/She can tell it in his/her own words as he/she holds the book and turns the page.

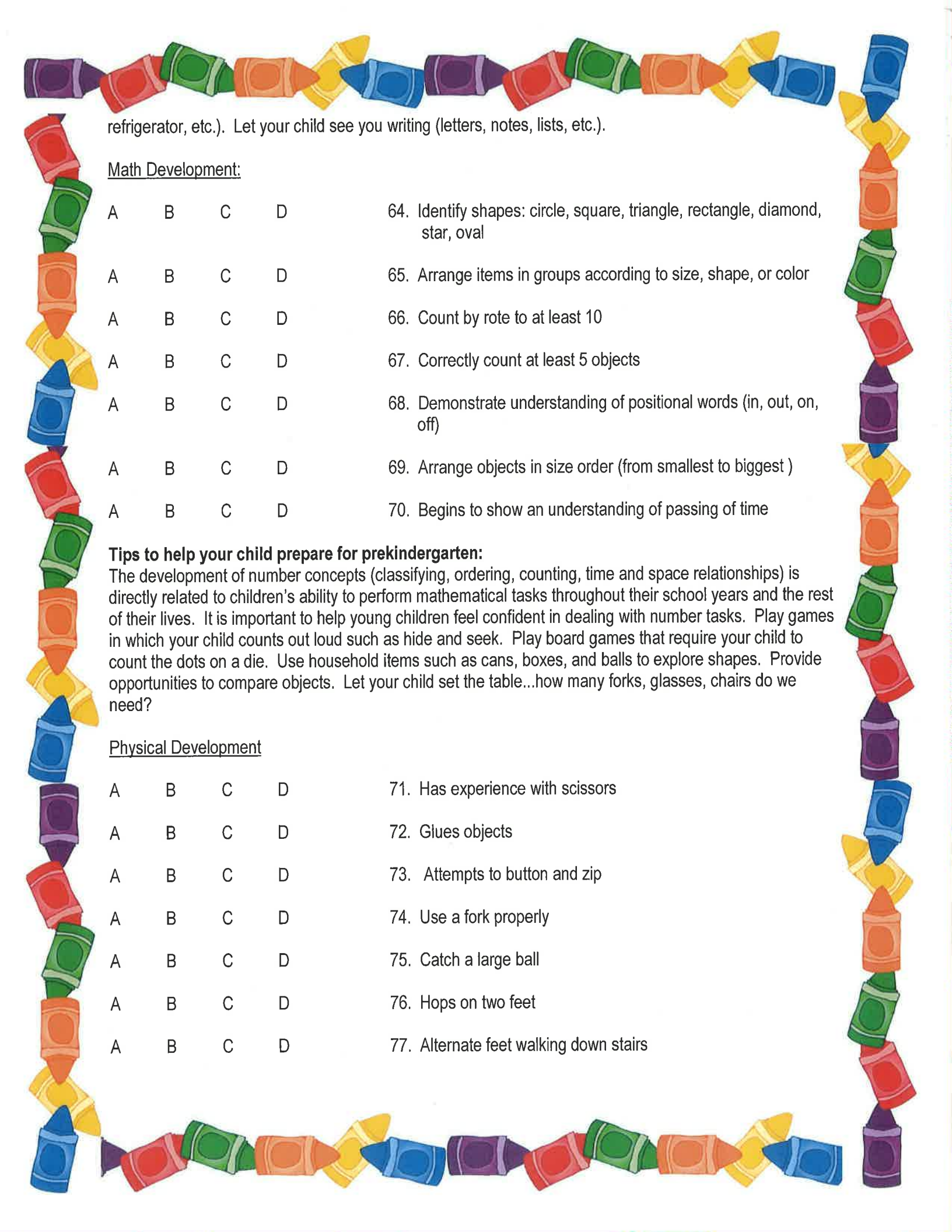
Visit your local library or bookmobile regularly. Give books as gifts. Point out print in the world around you. Sing familiar songs and stories such as "Old McDonald" and the "Itsy Bitsy Spider".

Writing Development:

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| A | B | C | D | 57. Write using drawings and made-up or real letters |
| A | B | C | D | 58. Draw and color beyond simple scribble |
| A | B | C | D | 59. Attempt to write his/her first name |
| A | B | C | D | 60. Ask you to write notes to other people |
| A | B | C | D | 61. Like to receive notes from you or others |
| A | B | C | D | 62. Hold writing instruments correctly |
| A | B | C | D | 63. Trace or draw a line with control |

Tips to help your child prepare for prekindergarten:

To become proficient writers, children need encouragement and support as they begin the writing process. They will play at writing like they play at reading. Children go through various stages of writing development. These stages include scribbling, drawing pictures, and pretend writing. Children need to be able to experiment with a variety of writing materials, such as pencils, pens, crayons, markers, colored pencils, paper, and coloring books. Magnetic letters are also helpful. Label things in the room to develop an awareness of writing in the environment around us. Children are not expected to have letter formation at this stage in their development. Accept your child's early writing attempts, including scribbles. Ask them to read what they have written. Have a place to display your child's writing efforts (bulletin board,



refrigerator, etc.). Let your child see you writing (letters, notes, lists, etc.).

Math Development:

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| A | B | C | D | 64. Identify shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond, star, oval |
| A | B | C | D | 65. Arrange items in groups according to size, shape, or color |
| A | B | C | D | 66. Count by rote to at least 10 |
| A | B | C | D | 67. Correctly count at least 5 objects |
| A | B | C | D | 68. Demonstrate understanding of positional words (in, out, on, off) |
| A | B | C | D | 69. Arrange objects in size order (from smallest to biggest) |
| A | B | C | D | 70. Begins to show an understanding of passing of time |

Tips to help your child prepare for prekindergarten:

The development of number concepts (classifying, ordering, counting, time and space relationships) is directly related to children's ability to perform mathematical tasks throughout their school years and the rest of their lives. It is important to help young children feel confident in dealing with number tasks. Play games in which your child counts out loud such as hide and seek. Play board games that require your child to count the dots on a die. Use household items such as cans, boxes, and balls to explore shapes. Provide opportunities to compare objects. Let your child set the table...how many forks, glasses, chairs do we need?

Physical Development

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| A | B | C | D | 71. Has experience with scissors |
| A | B | C | D | 72. Glues objects |
| A | B | C | D | 73. Attempts to button and zip |
| A | B | C | D | 74. Use a fork properly |
| A | B | C | D | 75. Catch a large ball |
| A | B | C | D | 76. Hops on two feet |
| A | B | C | D | 77. Alternate feet walking down stairs |



Tips to help your child prepare for prekindergarten:

Children need physical skills to be successful in school. Provide daily opportunities to develop strength and coordination of large and small muscles such as going to the park; playing ball games and tag; practicing lacing, pouring, and stirring. Provide opportunities with swings, tricycles, and jump ropes. Provide experience with scissors, such as cutting pictures from magazines.

We hope that you will use this checklist to prayerfully consider your child's readiness for the structure of a prekindergarten setting. We look forward to meeting you and your child.

